Numb. 23.

THE REHEARSAL Of Obſervator, &c.

A Summary View *of the Affairs of* Scotland, *from the* Revolution *to their Late* Act *for* Arming. *With the Probable* Reaſon *of it.*

The Propoſal *of* Arming *all the* Freeholders *in* England. *And for what End. Her* Majeſty's *Power of the* Militia *Attack'd by the* Obſervator.

From Saturday December the 30th, to Saturday January the 6th, 170⅔.

Country-m. GOod *New-Year* to thee, *Maſter.*

Obſ. And to our *CAUSE*, *Country-man*; it go's Bravely on! Let not our *Enemies* Recover their Spirits, to ſpoil my *Bullying*, and *Try* me again this *Year*. I hope to be out of their *Reach* before the *Next*!

Country-m. Thou ſpeak'ſt *Myſtically*, Maſter! How can'ſt thou be out of their *Reach*? And that, before next *Year*.

Obſ. We are got *Above* them *Already*! If *WE* can *Bully* them, as *WE* do. If *WE* can *Legion* the *Houſe* of *Commons*, and they *Sitting*! Throw all the *Tackers* to the *Lions*! And I, even I my ſelf, continue to *Impeach* the *Adminiſtration*, Publickly through the *Nation* in *Print*, with my *Name* to it, more *Impudently* ſince my *Tryal* than Before! For our *PARTY* muſt not be *Diſoblig'd*! And if *WE* are ſo much *Above* them *Now*, who *Dare* ſay *Bo* to our *Gooſe*, When *WE* are Join'd by our *Dear Brethren* of *Scotland*, who *Reign TRIUMPHANTLY* over the *Church*, and *Perſecute* her, without *Moderation*! But they want a little *Help* from *US* at Preſent. For the *Cavaliers* and *Church-men* have Play'd them a *Trick* lately.

Country-man. What *Trick* was that? *Maſter.*

Obſ. You muſt know, That at the Beginning of this *Revolution*, in *Decem.* 1688, our *Cameronian ZEALOTS* had the *Wink* tipp'd to them, and took *Arms*. And ſhew'd their *Moderation* to the *Clergy*, like any *Scythians*, O, moſt *CURIOUSLY*! *Plundering*, *Tearing*, and *Murdering* at *Diſcretion*. And this was made Uſe of as an Argument to ſhew the *Inclinations* of the *People* againſt *Epiſcopacy*. Upon this the *College* of *Juſtice* at *Edinburgh*, and others did *Arm* themſelves, the *Government* being then in Confuſion; And ſent to the *Prince* of *Orange* (before he was *King*) to Quiet this *Commotion*, till Matters might be ſettl'd in a Regular way. His *Highneſs* then ſent *Orders*, That both *Parties* ſhou'd lay down their *Arms*. The *Cavaliers* obey'd, not Doubting but this was *ſincerely* meant. But the *Whiggs* did not *Diſarm*. And when Ask'd why they did not Obey his *Highneſs's* Order? They *Laugh'd*, and ſaid, They knew for whom it was meant! This *ARMED Rabble*, after having Act-ed the moſt *Glorious Outrages* that ever were Heard of up and down the *Country*, in the *Weſt* of *Scotland*, where they are moſt Powerful; were made the *Guard* of the *Convention*, when they met. And made full uſe of their *Power*, *EXCLUDING* what *Members* they thought fit (after the Example of *OLD NOLL*, who Underſtood *BUSINESS*!) *Inſulting* them in the very *Streets*, eſpecially the *Biſhops*, who ſat in the firſt *Convention*; Some were *Murder'd*; Sir *George Lockart*, that Eminent *Lawyer*, was ſhot *Dead* upon *Eaſter-Day*, going into his own *Houſe*, as he came from *Church*; Sir *George Mackenzie* then *Lord Advocate*, of *Celebrated Name*, and well Known in *England*, was forc'd to *Fly* for his *Life* by *Night*, and came to *London*, where he *Dy'd*; My Lord *Dundee*, who had been Active in the *Reign* of K. *Charles* II. againſt our *Friends*, whom they call'd *Rebels*, notwithſtanding he was known to be no leſs Zealous againſt Popery, was forc'd to *Fly* too, for he ſat in the firſt Meeting of that *Convention*; And gave this as the Reaſon for his taking up *Arms*. In this Godly *Convention*, thus *Model'd*, *EPISCOPACY* was *Voted* Down; The *Biſhops* being firſt Turn'd out (without which it cou'd not have been done *THERE*!) by the *Inſtructions* ſent to the *Commiſſioner*, bearing *Date* from *Our Court* at *Copt-Hall*, the 31 of *May*, 1689, which were afterwards *Printed* by the late *King's Authority* in *London*. And the *Epiſcopal Clergy* who had been ſo *Inhumanly* and *Barbarouſly* (as they ſpeak) *Rabbl'd*, and Forc'd to *Fly*, ſent Dr. *Scot* Dean of *Glaſgow*, to the then *Prince* of *Orange*, to *Implore* his *Protection* from this *Violent MOBB*. But for *Anſwer*, were Referr'd to the *Convention* or *Meeting* of *Eſtates*, who by the way, were not to meet till between *two* and *three Months* after, till when they were to Bear it with *Chriſtian* Patience! And when they *Met*, in *Obedience* to his *HIGHNESS's Recommendation*, they by their *Act* of *April* 13. 1689. *Excluded* from the *Protection* of the *Government*, all thoſe *Clergy* who had been *Mobb'd* out before that *Day*; who were about 300; And *Declar'd* their *Churches VACANT*. And Return'd their *Thanks* to the Good *Women* and *People* for their Godly *Zeal* in the *Work* of *Reformation*!

Country-m. Here's a *Story* with all my Heart! Do'ſt think any Body will *Believe* thee, tho' thou Quotes *Acts* and *Days*? Were theſe things ever told in *England* before? What! That the *Presbyterian MOBB* ſhou'd be let Looſe at this Rate, to *Ravage* the *Eſtabliſh'd CHURCH* and *CLERGY*; And no *Puniſhment*, but Rather *Thanks* given them for it! Was this the *Foundation* of *Eſtabliſhing Presbytery* in *Scotland*?

Obſ. That thou May'ſt not think I ſpeak without Book, I Refer thee to the ſeveral *Accounts* of theſe *Proceedings* in *Scotland*, Printed 1690, *&c.* For *Jo. Hindmarſh* at the *Golden-Ball* in *Cornhill*, over againſt the *Royal Exchange*. And they will *Aſtoniſh* thee! But you muſt Conſider, That tho' ſuch *Proceedings* look, at firſt ſight, very *Horridly* to *Carnally-Minded* Men, who Regard not the *Spirituallity* of the *Buſineſs*, and can ſee No *Moderation* in it! Yet it was Great *Moderation*! For the *Work* of the *Lord* cou'd not otherwiſe have been Carry'd on. And ſhou'd his *Work* ſtop, to *Gratifie FLESH* and *BLOOD*, which we are Oblig'd to *Subdue*! It is the *End* that *Sanctifies* the *Means*. Who wou'd not Bear a little *Evil*, for ſuch a Great deal of *Good*? They are the Men of no *Moderation*, who put Us to ſo much *Trouble*, and wou'd not

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let Us Do our *Work QUIETLY*, since it must be Done! They have fill'd the *Nations* with their *Remonstrances* and *Relations* of their *Sufferings*, and the *Injustice* done them, to bring an *Evil-Report* upon their *Brethren*; And *Disquiet* the Minds of the *People*; And put them upon their *Guard*, and *Prejudice* them against the *Work* going on in *England* too! Is it not these Mens *Noise* that Hinders *Peace* and *Union*? And can these be Men of *MODERATION*? Are they *Christians*, who will not *Suffer PATIENTLY*? But must *Clamour* and *Roar out*, like *Children*, when they are *Hurt*! Ay, and Pretend to be Afraid too of *Worse* coming upon them! And to Prepare for their *Defence* in Case of the *Worst*: as they have serv'd Us in the Knavish *Trick* I told thee they had lately put upon Us, which I come now to Shew thee.

Our Godly *Party* having been *Arm'd* at the Beginning of the *Revolution*, as is said, have so Continu'd to this Day, Whereas the *Others* have Generally no *Arms*. For what shou'd *They* do with *Arms*? However they were *Uneasy*, as thinking themselves *Defenceless* in *OUR Power*. Who never did them any *Harm* in all the Days of our Life! But on the Contrary, When it came under Consideration, and was Debated in our *Junto* then *Reigning* in *London*, in the Year 1649, Whether all the *Royalists* in *England* shou'd be put to a General *Massacre*, for the Safety of the *Government*? It was Carry'd in the *Negative* by No Less than *Two* whole *Voices*. And *WE* Contented our selves with the Method of the *High Court of Justice*, to *Lop* only such as *WE* thought fit. And put the Rest under *Confiscations*, *Sequestrations*, and *Imprisonment* at *Pleasure*; All that *Mourn'd* or *Murmur'd* for their two *Idols* We had Broken, of *Episcopacy* and *Monarchy*, of *Church* and *State*, which *We* laid Level with the *Ground*, And *Seiz'd* all the *Revenues* belonging to them, for the Use of the *Saints*! And was not *That* a *Good* Use.

Now, *Country-man*, I'll shew thee how *Unreasonable* these *Church* and *Monarchy* Men are, and how *Foolishly* they *Argue*; they say, That because We *Mump'd* them indeed in *Forty One*, and Again in this *Revolution*, especially in *Scotland* (where the *Dance* was Begun that was to be *Pip'd* thro' *England*, as before in *Forty One*) And at all *Times*, and in all *Places*, wherever *We* had the *Power* to Do it; And because *OUR Principles* and *Inclinations* and what *WE* take to be *OUR Interest*, are still the same, and *WE Justifie* what *WE* Did *Before*; That therefore it is *Certain WE* will Do the same *Again*, whenever *WE* Get into the *Power* Thus they say.

But where is the *Consequence*? Because *WE* did it *Before*, is it therefore *Necessary* that We *Must* do it *Again*? And tho' *WE* take it to be *OUR Interest*, have not many Men *Mistaken* their *Interest*, and *Ruin'd* themselves by it, and Acted Contrary to their *Interest*? And for *OUR Principles*. Can they find no *Examples* where Men have Acted likewise (*OCCASIONALLY*) against their *Principles*? So that here is no *CERTAIN Conclusion* at all! What *Mood* or *Figure* will they put their *Syllogism* in? These Men have no *Logick*! And thus *WE* Easily *Answer* and *Refute* all their *Arguments*, and *Suggestions*! And shew them to have no *MODERATION*, who are Afraid of *Consequences*, that are not *Certain* and *Demonstrative*!

Country-m. But if I meet men *Robb'd* and *Stript* upon the same *Way* that I am *Going*, there is no *Demonstrative Proof* that I *must* be *Rob'd* too if I *Go* on! Nay if I see the *Robbers* before me, and that they *Threaten* me to my *Face*, if I give not up my *Sword* into their *Hands*, and *Trust* their *MODERATION*! If I see Men *Bound* and *Gagg'd* by them! not so much as to *Open* their *Mouths* on Pain of *High Treason*, and *Hear* their *Groans*, on the *Scotch* side of the *Hedge*— All this is no *Demonstration*, that I *Must needs* be serv'd so, if I *Deliver* my *Sword*! But they are such *WOUNDY Probabilities*, That I'm sure I shou'd have no *MODERATION*, as to my self, nor one Drachm of *Common-sense* left, if I should *Trust* my self in *SUCH Hands*, while it was *Possibly* in my *Power* to *Help* it!

Obs. Thou'lt always be putting me out! Now thou hast *Puzzl'd* the *Cause* again! I Care not for thy *Common sense*, I'm for *Logick*! And I'll go on with my *Story*. These *Episcopal* and *Monarchy* men in *Scotland* it seems are of thy Mind. They thought not Themselves *Safe*, While the *Arms* were in *OUR* Godly *Hands*, and *Themselves* left *Naked*. And because they *Durst* not *Complain* of this, while the *Government* is in *OUR* Hands; They had a *Fetch* about, on other *Pretences*, to get the whole *Kingdom*, except the *Papists*, put into a *Posture* of *Defence*, Now in this Time of *War*. By which Means the *Royalists* and *Episcopal MALIGNANTS* there are now to be *Arm'd* as well as *WE Saints*! And shoud they be found *Superiour* to *US*, not only in *Quality* and *Interest*, but in *Numbers* too, shou'd *WE* not then think our selves in a Bad *Condition*? And wou'd not this be a *Scurvy Trick* Plaid Us?

Country-m. A *Scurvy TRICK*, on my Word! But wou'd not *YOU* still be as *Safe* by your own *Logick*, being *Arm'd*; As *YOU* wou'd Perswade *THEM* they were, when *All* the *Arms* were in *Your* Hands?

Obs. Our *Logick* is made for *THEM*, not for *US*!

As no Man of his own self Catches
The Itch or Amorous French Aches,
So no Man do's Himself Convince
By his own Doctrin of his Sins.

But *WE* have found out a way to Deliver the *Saints*. We'll give them an *Oliver* their *Rowland*! For I'll tell thee, *Country-man*, We will now *Approve* of what they have done in *Scotland*, since We cannot *Help* it! And *WE* will Propose the same for a *Precedent* to *England*. That is, to get all *Freeholders* in *England ARM'D* too, Or, as I word it in my *Observator* of last *Dec.* 20. N. 71. the *Posse* of the *Kingdom*, and the *Native Strength* of the *Country*. And I say, *They* (the Scots) *are so much in the Right*; *and if We do not the Like, we are so much in the Wrong*. And I shew there Plainly, That their Design cannot be upon *England*.

Country-m. Upon what then? What then need We be *Allarm'd*?

Obs. The *Nation* need not. For none can think, That *Scotland* ever intends to *CONQUER England*! But *OUR Party* has Great Reason to Look to it. For if We make not *Root* and *Branch Work* in *Scotland*, We can never Carry on the *CAUSE* in *England*. And if We can get the *Mobb* of *England ARM'D*, We know how to manage *Them*, to Join with our *Good Brethren* of *Scotland*, if they shou'd Come into *England*, for a further *Reformation*, as they did in *Forty One*. And *WE* will have *Grievances*, till WE have Pull'd down the *Church* and *Monarchy*, as WE did Before.

Country-m. But the *Militia* is in the *Queen's* hands. How will you do with That?

Obs. Hast not thou therefore observ'd how I Explain the Nature of the *Militia* in mine, N. 73, and 74, to be *Originally* in the *People*, and that the *Parliament* ought to have the *Choice* of them. *And how it came afterwards to be put into the Hands of the King* (say I, *N.* 74. last *Dec.* 30.) *is a Subject that would prove Invidious*—But however, That it is not solely in the *King*, but *under the Restrictions of Parliament*. Do'st thou Perceive nothing now?

Country-m. I think my *Eyes* begin to *Open*! And by the *Working* it is *Apparent*, That a *NATIONAL War* with *Scotland* is not the matter; But by a *Conjunction* of the *Faction* in both *Kingdoms*, the *GOOD OLD CAUSE* is to have Another *Day* for it here in *England*, as well as in *Scotland*. But more of this next time. It is now Late. And thou hast Given me Enough to *Dream* on for a *Week*.

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